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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,403	03/16/2004	Douglas V. Poscich	B0932.70191US01	3710

7590 03/16/2005

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Boston, MA 02210

EXAMINER

SHRIVER II, JAMES A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3618

DATE MAILED: 03/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/802,403

Applicant(s)

POSCICH, DOUGLAS V.

Examiner

J. Allen Shriver

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/1/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maravetz et al. (US Patent 6,099,018).** Maravetz et al. discloses an interface for coupling a snowboard boot (7) to a snowboard binding base (53), the snowboard boot including a sole, the snowboard binding base including at least one pair of engagement members (97), the interface comprising an interface body (51) including a lower portion that is mounted below at least a portion of the sole of the snowboard boot, at least one pair of mating features (73) supported by the interface body, the at least one pair of mating features to be engaged by the last least one pair of engagement members; and at least one strap (57) supported by the interface body to secure the binding interface to the snowboard boot; **[claim 2]** wherein the at least one strap includes first (57) and second straps (63) supported by the interface body; **[claim 3]** wherein the first strap includes an ankle strap supported at a heel end of the interface body, the ankle strap being adapted to extend across an ankle portion of the snowboard boot; **[claim 4]** wherein the binding interface includes a pair of sidewalls (See Fig. 3) on the medial and lateral sides of the interface body, each of the sidewalls extending from a toe end to a heel end of the interface body; **[claim 5]** wherein the sidewalls are integrally formed with the interface body.

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Maravetz et al. does not disclose the lower portion having an X-shaped configuration, nor having the front and rear edges of the lower portion having a U-shaped configuration. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to change the front and rear edges of the interface body to have an X-shaped configuration or a U-shaped configuration, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the shape of the component. A change in shaped is a matter of choice, which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular configuration of the claimed component was significant. *In re Daily*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to configure the lower portion of the interface body in an X-shaped configuration or have the front and rear edges of the lower portion to have an U-shaped configuration. Applicant has not disclosed that configuring the lower portion in an X-shaped configuration or having the front and rear edges of the lower portion having an U-shaped configuration provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art, furthermore, would have expected Applicant's invention to perform equally well with any particular lower portion configuration as long as the lower portion fit into the configuration of the binding base.

Examiner suggests adding language to claim 1 setting forth the relationship between the lower portion's X-shaped configuration and the configuration of the pads of the binding base.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record in the accompanying PTO Form 892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Allen Shriver whose telephone number is (703) 308-1224. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris P. Ellis can be reached on (703) 305-0168. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

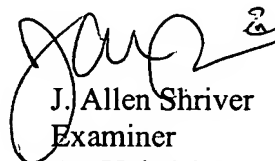
As of May 1, 2003, any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: (703) 305-3597 or (703) 305-7687 (for formal communications intended for entry. (703) 746-3852 (for informal communications directly to the Examiner).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Tuesday, March 08, 2005

 3/8/05
J. Allen Shriver
Examiner
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JAS